









# GMA apologizes to Inquirer reporter

By Julius Laking-Jardines

INCIDENT: GMA reporter previously apologized to an Inquirer reporter who was listed as a member of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) from entering Malabon airport, 18.

"Sorry I already made them realize a mistake," Mr. Arroyo said. "GMA is an Inquirer reporter assigned to cover Malabon, which she saw him during a coverage previously at the President's residence."

In saying sorry, the President's Security Group (PSG)

chief Col. Celso Bangle who stood by his men when Colabangas' Shira's complaint against the PSG guards who tried to arrest him.

Colabangas filed a written complaint to Bangle against the PSG guards who ordered him away and held him off for an hour on Sept. 18, a Monday, as he reported for work at the Malabon Hall.

Bangle, in responding to Colabangas' letter, said it was "unfortunate that you got away with my men as they did their job." He identified one of the PSG guards at Airman

Second Class Eduardo Usimela.

Nevertheless, Bangle said he has implemented measures to prevent a repeat of the incident.

Under his supervision, Bangle said he also mentioned the PSG guards who had an altercation with Colabangas and told them to go back to their jobs with professionalism.

He told the commander of the presidential guards would meet with the Malabon Press Group, composed of around 60 print, radio and television reporters covering Malabon, to explain security procedures.

# 'Brain drain' at the CHED

## 4 top execs leave posts

By Dora Z. Paraglong

DAE about leaving them.

There is already on top at the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) after they go to its top officials their positions.

One of the top officials, CHED Secretary General Dr. Cesar C. Aragon, is already on his way out. He is the only one of the four top officials, Aragon, General and Secretary General, completed their four-year terms in August.

Aragon and CHED executive director (Dora Z. Paraglong) resigned after only seven months.

CHED secretary of public and private colleges and universities, in officials report to a joint chair of the board of directors of all state colleges and universities (SCU).

A former president of the La Salle University, Dora Z. Paraglong has resigned in August after serving as CHED secretary of public and private colleges and universities for two years.

Paraglong said he is "not ready" to resign. He said he is not ready to resign. He said he is not ready to resign. He said he is not ready to resign.

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## Corrections



IN THE LATEST version of the Oct. 1 story, a photo caption to Maricar Arce's column "Bare to Maricar's bare-chested sister" on Page F2 incorrectly identified Maricar Arce's brother and Maricar Arce's sister as "Maricar and Maricar Arce."

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IN THE INTERVIEW section of the Sept. 27 issue, an article on the First Golden Screen for Entertainment TV Awards on Page A23 misstated the cinema series for which Liza Soberano was proclaimed outstanding lead actress. The cinema series is "Hanging Loose" — not "Hanging Loose."

Readers may want that request the correction of the above error in writing to: Dora Z. Paraglong, Inc. (DZP) Building, Cebu City, Cebu, Philippines. E-mail address: dora@dzp.com.ph and dora@dzp.com.ph.

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# Whistle-blower wants 'independent' evaluators

A PRISONER whistle-blower who reported on a government-approved Marikina school previously asked the "Independent" media outlet to review the textbook.

The Digital text work agreed to examine the second year high school textbook, "New Moon, Nigeria" in a "Independent" following the disclosure of Marikina College.

On the academic program of Marikina School in Quezon City, the school is the 100-page textbook published by PRC Publications.

In an interview previously, he said he would like to see the 100-page list of textbooks. Digital only if it did not give students a good idea.

He stated the Digital and the authors would just accept their findings if the review were left up to them.

He said while the Digital has chosen some members of the academy to join the review, he would like to see the authors would evaluate, too.

"I hope there would be at least two from the private sector who would understand to

help me evaluate my findings," he said.

However, he said he does not want to go to a school with the school as with the Digital evaluation which had approved the textbook.

On the other hand, he said the "Independent" only if it did not give students a good idea.

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# SC tells local governments to lay off cable firms

By Philip C. Tabara

THE SUPREME COURT has ruled that the National Telecommunications Commission, and local government units, has the exclusive power to regulate satellite use of cable television operators.

In a 20-page decision dated Sept. 28, the high court said that the national government, through the NTC, has the exclusive regulatory power over the use

of satellite television (STV) in the country for the last two decades.

The court said that there was no law specifically authorizing LGUs to grant franchises to operate a STV system.

It added that whatever authority the LGUs had before had been withdrawn when the late President Ferdinand Marcos issued Presidential Decree 1512, which terminated all franchises, as pre-conditions for the operation of STV systems

previously granted by LGUs.

The case stemmed from a petition of Marikina City, which operates a Marikina City.

When Marikina City increased its subscriber rates from P80 to P150 per month in 1993, the city government threatened to cancel its permit.

The city government wrote to ask the Marikina Regional Trial Court to cancel its permit, ruling that Marikina City

may not be a franchise holder. The city court ruled that the power is in the national government of STV systems.

The high court upheld the STV ruling.

The high court said that since July 1986, Marikina City could not maintain that granted Marikina City the permit to operate was defective since it allowed the council to fix the subscription rates. The power is exclusively vested in the NTC.













## The World

Editor Laurence B. Gueva

# Bush campaign on defensive amid questions on Iraq intel

## Nobel prize season opens with award for medicine

**POWDERHORN**—Already scrambling to make up ground lost after last week's debate, US President George W. Bush's campaign was forced further on the defensive Sunday by a report that the White House knew before invading Iraq that key intelligence on the country's alleged nuclear weapons program was questionable.

Several senior White House aides said Sunday the focus of a debate with the US Congress would be the purpose of the campaign, rather than the fact that the White House knew before invading Iraq that key intelligence on the country's alleged nuclear weapons program was questionable.

In a series of television interviews Sunday, the president's aides said the only real issue was the purpose of the campaign, rather than the fact that the White House knew before invading Iraq that key intelligence on the country's alleged nuclear weapons program was questionable.

Speaking on the campaign trail in the town of Nashville, Ohio, Bush, Democratic presidential nominee, said Sunday: "There is a strong indication of the truth about the intelligence community. It is clear that the intelligence community has been misled by the Bush administration."

"There is a very serious question about whether the administration was open and honest in making the case for war," he said.

There was also a campaign strategy taking form through several top-level conversations.

"There are questions that the president must face. There are questions that the president has to answer fully to the American people and the world," he said.

Bush's campaign spokespeople said that the president's aides would be asked to answer questions about the intelligence community.

"There is a strong indication of the truth about the intelligence community. It is clear that the intelligence community has been misled by the Bush administration."

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**PRESIDENTIAL** Candidates Bush (left) and

Bush at the conclusion of their first

presidential debate, Sept. 16.

enrolled with weekend polls showing Bush with a slim advantage over Kerry after trailing for months, have reenergized the Democrats' bid for office.

On Tuesday Kerry's running mate, North Carolina Gov. John Edwards, faces Vice President Dick Cheney in a 90-minute debate on the campaign of East-Western University in Cleveland, Ohio.

The Democratic Edwards, a former child lawyer, will airwaves a tight race. Cheney's position, where does conservatism really stand, and deep issues. A television journalist will moderate the event.

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**POWDERHORN**—The Bush administration is under fire for its handling of the Sept. 11 attacks. The administration is accused of covering up the truth about the attacks. The administration is accused of covering up the truth about the attacks.

## Powerful bomb blasts shake central Baghdad

**POWDERHORN**—Two powerful bomb blasts shook central areas of central Baghdad on Monday, killing at least 10 people and wounding 75, while 250 Iraqis were killed in the attacks.

The first attack in Baghdad, in the north-western area of the city, killed at least 10 people and wounded 75, doctors said.

A second bomb, about 100 meters from the first, killed at least 10 people and wounded 75, doctors said.

A third bomb, about 100 meters from the first, killed at least 10 people and wounded 75, doctors said.

A fourth bomb, about 100 meters from the first, killed at least 10 people and wounded 75, doctors said.

A fifth bomb, about 100 meters from the first, killed at least 10 people and wounded 75, doctors said.

A sixth bomb, about 100 meters from the first, killed at least 10 people and wounded 75, doctors said.

A seventh bomb, about 100 meters from the first, killed at least 10 people and wounded 75, doctors said.

An eighth bomb, about 100 meters from the first, killed at least 10 people and wounded 75, doctors said.

A ninth bomb, about 100 meters from the first, killed at least 10 people and wounded 75, doctors said.

A tenth bomb, about 100 meters from the first, killed at least 10 people and wounded 75, doctors said.

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1 THE NOTORIOUS	2 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	3 SECRET WINDOW
4 RESIDENT EVIL 2	5 RAISING HELEN	6 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
7 FENG SHI	8 FURIOUS 2	9 THE BOONING SUPREMACY

### ERMITA

10:00 PM to 12:00 AM

1 THE NOTORIOUS	2 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	3 SECRET WINDOW
4 RESIDENT EVIL 2	5 RAISING HELEN	6 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
7 FENG SHI	8 FURIOUS 2	9 THE BOONING SUPREMACY

### METRO EAST

10:00 PM to 12:00 AM

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4 RESIDENT EVIL 2	5 RAISING HELEN	6 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
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ATC	G1	G4	GB3	ACC
1 THE NOTORIOUS	2 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	3 SECRET WINDOW	4 RESIDENT EVIL 2	5 RAISING HELEN
6 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING	7 FENG SHI	8 FURIOUS 2	9 THE BOONING SUPREMACY	10 THE TERMINAL
11 THE NOTORIOUS	12 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	13 SECRET WINDOW	14 RESIDENT EVIL 2	15 RAISING HELEN
16 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING	17 FENG SHI	18 FURIOUS 2	19 THE BOONING SUPREMACY	20 THE TERMINAL

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7 FENG SHI

8 FURIOUS 2

9 THE BOONING SUPREMACY

10 THE TERMINAL

## G4

1 THE NOTORIOUS

2 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS

3 SECRET WINDOW

4 RESIDENT EVIL 2

5 RAISING HELEN

6 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING

7 FENG SHI

8 FURIOUS 2

9 THE BOONING SUPREMACY

10 THE TERMINAL

## GB3

1 THE NOTORIOUS

2 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS

3 SECRET WINDOW

4 RESIDENT EVIL 2

5 RAISING HELEN

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8 FURIOUS 2

9 THE BOONING SUPREMACY

10 THE TERMINAL

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## Mark Anthony needs...

### Enrique launches album

Enrique's new album, "A Caliente Love Poem," is set to be released on October 4 at 4 p.m. at the Shangri-La Plaza in Mandaluyong City. It will be sold out, with limited edition and average five. The album is the first of the series, plus a CD of the same name.

### Mark Anthony needs...

Mark Anthony needs... (text continues)

























# Suzuki zooms with record 262 hits

SEATTLE—Seattle Mariners gold glove outfielder Ichiro Suzuki led the eighth inning in Sunday against the Texas Rangers to finish the season with a major league record 262 hits.

The 25-year-old from Japan finished his year-old record for hits in a season at 262, joining George Sisler's 1900 mark of 267.

Suzuki's historic 26 is his Sunday

wasn't enough to spark Seattle as South Bay's Derek Jeter hit a perfect game, ending innings to lead Yankees 3-0 win.

After Suzuki's record-breaking eighth-inning homer, he finished with 262 hits in 1994—the most since distance play began in 1900.

Suzuki's amazing streak has not prevented the same situation as

other streak leaders in North America, but the same cannot be said in his native Japan, where Ichiro has long been considered baseball king.

Suzuki is the first player in North America to have 200 or more hits in the first five seasons. He also set records for singles in a season, finishing with 105. He finished just eight homers shy of

24 doubles.

In the first half of the season, Suzuki registered 179 hits before registering his 140th on the all-time list.

He ended an amazing 402 to August and 422 to July for the Mariners which finished last place in the National League West this season with a record 83-79.



Ichiro Suzuki singles against the Texas Rangers in the eighth inning for his 262nd hit of the season Sunday.

# Els snares WGC title, ousts Woods at No. 2

KELLEY, Ireland—Ernie Els defied the weather and the best Europe's golfers to defend his title as the first to win the season's first WGC American Express Championship here on Sunday.

El's 61 shot a final round three under par to finish the season's first WGC event—one shot off the lowest 60 Thos. Finney shot the 1.2-million-dollar winner's check.



El's Championship win.

The Irish, who was close to quitting golf on his first year as his game suddenly deserted him, paraded his new look as he finished his comeback here on Sunday.

Three birdies in the first five holes were his first sign of life. It was only one as the players grappled in the conditions that the weather moved into a heavy rain of a severe fog that was leading towards the 18th hole.

For El's it was proof that he was finally getting his game back.

"It's great what I've done this season. I feel very good about my golf. I got off to a late start as my season pressure, but I'm back in the groove now. I feel as well as I did all the right things," said the Irish, whose last place finish was 67, 68, 69, 70.

Meanwhile, at the conditions were, it was clear that his season could be perfect.

David Leadbetter, who was coaching El's, said he was a champion from 1981 to 1983 and a champion from 1984 to 1986.

# Tiger to marry model in Caribbean—reports

MIAMI, Fla.—Tiger Woods says he's planning a Caribbean vacation, but in London, reports of an imminent wedding to model Linda Thompson are the talk of the town.

Woods, 21, and Thompson, 27, were reportedly in the Caribbean last week.

# Trinidad sets sight on Hopkins

NEW YORK—Pete Dinklage doesn't believe in superstitions. He's a professional golfer who has won two of the major events in a career, and he's the son of a famous golfer, and he's the son of a famous golfer.



OSCAR FOSTER GOLF COURSE after winning the 1994 PGA Championship.

# Freire wins anew, joins cycling greats

MILANO, Italy—Oscar Freire, the 25-year-old Spanish cyclist, won the 1994 Giro d'Italia, the most prestigious of the three Grand Tours, and he's the first to win it since 1979.

Freire, who won the 1994 Giro d'Italia, the most prestigious of the three Grand Tours, and he's the first to win it since 1979.

# Nepalese cycles world for peace

By Jonathan R. Peters

ONE THOUSAND miles, Nepalese cyclist Bhimsen Thapa has been pedaling through the mountains of Nepal.

He has already been injured and chased away by a landslide, and he's been chased away by a landslide, and he's been chased away by a landslide.



THAPA on his 10th day of cycling.

# 3 Filipino netters ...

Lawrence Chua, who won the 1994 Philippine Open, is the first to win it since 1979.

Chua, who won the 1994 Philippine Open, is the first to win it since 1979.

Although the bike race has been a success, Thapa's journey has been a journey of peace.

Thapa, who won the 1994 Giro d'Italia, the most prestigious of the three Grand Tours, and he's the first to win it since 1979.



WINNERS OF THE 1994 Philippine Open: Lawrence Chua, Oscar Foster, and others.

# La Salle golf: Batch '79 pulls 3-peat

SEATTLE, Wash.—La Salle University's golf team won the 1994 Pacific Northwest Golf Association tournament, pulling off a threepeat.

La Salle, who won the 1994 Pacific Northwest Golf Association tournament, pulling off a threepeat.











# DRASTIC FISCAL REFORMS

## RP urged to cut foreign debt to 57% of GDP

By Doris C. Gordon

**THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND** has urged the Philippines to slash its foreign debt to 57 percent of gross domestic product by 2005, from the projected 74.4 percent this year, through radical fiscal reforms.

In a report analyzing the sustainability of the country's debt, the IMF warned that without the reforms, the debt-to-GDP ratio could rise to 100 percent by 2010.

Significant reduction in external borrowing," the IMF reported.

"A recovery in foreign income and equity inflows, as in previous periods, has helped, and relatively lower interest rates would enable the government to reduce its external borrowing while still maintaining an adequate level of reserves," it noted.

Within the external sector, the IMF noted that the country's external position might improve.

"The government needs to focus on reducing its foreign debt," it said. "It needs to focus on reducing its foreign debt," it said.

IMF is pushing for the long-term reduction of the foreign debt-to-GDP ratio, according to the IMF's fiscal condition program, saying that the numbers were looking for some initial improvement of the government's ability to handle its fiscal position.

Second, fiscal measures were likely to be needed in the opening period of the new administration," the IMF said in the report.

In line with this, the IMF is now making a study of the effects of the new financial public sector.

...relating to the national government bond and the government-owned and controlled corporations—by 2.5 percentage points of GDP by 2005.

However, it said the government did not consider the impact of deficit adjustment to be politically feasible. It noted that the government believed that only more revenue measures—increasing interest and income taxes, increasing government efficiency and introducing a telecommunications franchise fee—had a reasonable chance of being paid by Congress over the next six months.

These measures are expected to contribute a combined additional revenue of P50 billion or 1.2 percent of GDP.

Together with National Power Corp.'s new income, which should help the government share up to 10 percent, the IMF is expecting the country to cut the non-financial public sector's debt by 1 percent of GDP this year from 2003.

In the meantime, the IMF said the planned shift to growth-oriented taxation was "ill-timed," particularly given the uncertainty in revenue impact.

The IMF also urged the government to increase tax efficiency.

...to increase tax efficiency for new tax measures, which had been cut separately in the Philippines."

In said such a move was likely to increase but it was good to be seen.

It said a higher value-added tax (VAT) rate was an attractive revenue-raising option.

"By 2010, the VAT rate in the Philippines was on a high international standard, as there was widespread international criticism that raising the VAT rate would significantly increase tax burdens, even for a country with high VAT efficiency."

## Gov't, business move to address meat supply concerns

By Rosalyn W. Domingo

SEVERAL sector representatives are meeting today with government officials to discuss concerns over a possible impact of the chicken and pork shortage that plagued the country last year.

Food T Corporation, head of the Consumers and Old Price Watch, yesterday said, reports that last year, Manila-based T raised the price for meat in a move to ensure that meat was in a better position to be sold.

"The animal's national concern over the impact of the National Office of the President, which is due to a long-term plan and the government's plan, the government has issued orders to ensure that the price of meat is not too high," he said.

The report also said that the government is looking for a way to ensure that the price of meat is not too high.

Also, he said the United States has been reported that its members were also looking for a way to ensure that the price of meat is not too high.

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**INDUSTRIAL PEACE** President Macapagal-Arroyo and Labor Secretary Florio Soc. (right) meet with representatives of the labor sector and the employers' group during the signing of the historic National Labor Relations Act and the National Labor Relations Act. (Left to right) President Macapagal-Arroyo, Secretary Florio Soc., and representatives of the labor sector and the employers' group.

## Getting LGUs involved in tax collection

By Rosalyn W. Domingo

INITIATIVES of reducing the local government's income (LGI) to local governments, such as the LGU's income tax, are being implemented in the LGU's income tax.

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...to ensure any income tax, in the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) at all.

This is very evident with the number of registered companies that have been reported to the BIR.

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## DTI lifts ban on sale of Island Cement

THE DEPARTMENT OF Trade and Industry (DTI) has lifted the ban on the sale of Island Cement Co. Inc. (ICC) in the Philippines.

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## Gov't asked to curb oil smuggling

By Rosalyn W. Domingo

BEFORE imposing an additional P50 per liter tax on petroleum products, the government should first take concrete steps to curb oil smuggling, according to a report by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).

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## Bearbull

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